Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (withdrawn): A method of preventing or treating West Nile virus in a human comprising administering to the human an effective amount of ribavirin.

Claim 2 (withdrawn): A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the ribavirin is administered orally.

Claim 3 (withdrawn): A method in accordance with claim 2, wherein the ribavirin is administered in an amount from about 300 mg to about 3600mg/day.

Claim 4 (withdrawn): A method in accordance with claim 2, wherein the ribavirin is administered in an amount of 1200mg as an initial dose, then 600mg every 6 hours.

Claims 5-9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (withdrawn): A method of treating or preventing West Nile virus in an animal suffering therefrom comprising administering to the animal an effective amount of ribavirin and interferon alpha-2b.

Claim 11 (withdrawn): A method in accordance with claim 10, wherein the animal is a human.

Claim 12 (withdrawn): A method in accordance with claim 11, wherein the ribavirin is administered orally and the interferon alpha-2b is administered parenterally to the human.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): A method in accordance with claim 12, wherein the ribavirin is administered to the human in an amount from about 300 mg to about 3600mg/day and the

interferon alpha-2b is administered in an amount from about 1.5 million units to about 10 million units/day.

Claim 14 (withdrawn): A method in accordance with claim 13, wherein the ribavirin is administered to the human in an amount of 1200mg as an initial dose, then 600mg every 6 hours.

Claim 15 (withdrawn): A method in accordance with claim 13, wherein the interferon alpha-2b is administered to the human in an amount of 3 million units as an initial dose, then 3 million units every 12 to 24 hours.

Claim 16 (withdrawn): A method of preventing or treating an animal with an infection, comprising:

administering to the animal an effective amount of ribavirin, interferon alpha-2b or combinations thereof, wherein the infection causes an encephalitis selected from the group consisting of St. Louis, Japanese, and Murray Valley.

Claims 17-19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (currently amended): A method <u>of treating a human suffering from a meningitis, encephalitis, or meningo-encephalitis caused by a West Nile virus infection comprising administering intravenously to the human</u> ~~in accordance with claim 19, wherein the~~ <u>an effective amount of</u> interferon alpha-2b ~~is administered parenterally~~.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A method in accordance with claim [[19]] <u>20</u>, wherein the interferon alpha-2b is administered in an amount from about 1.5 million units to about 10 million units/day.

Claim 22 (currently amended): A method in accordance with claim [[19]] <u>20</u>, wherein the

interferon alpha-2b is administered in an amount of 3 million units as an initial dose, then 3 million units every 12 to 24 hours.

Claim 23 (previously presented): A method in accordance with claim 20, wherein the interferon alpha-2b is administered subcutaneously to the human.

Claim 24 (currently amended): A method in accordance with claim 20, wherein the interferon alpha-2b is administered intravenously to the human for 14 days.

Claim 25 (new): A method in accordance with claim 20, wherein acetaminophen is given to the human 30 minutes before the interferon alpha-2b.

Claim 26 (new): A method of treating a human suffering from meningo-encephalitis caused by a West Nile virus infection comprising administering intravenously to the human an effective amount of interferon alpha-2b.

Claim 27 (new): A method in accordance with claim 26, wherein the interferon alpha-2b is administered in an amount from about 1.5 million units to about 10 million units/day.

Claim 28 (new): A method in accordance with claim 26, wherein the interferon alpha-2b is administered in an amount of 3 million units as an initial dose intravenously, then 3 million units every 12 to 24 hours subcutaneously.

Claim 29 (new): A method in accordance with claim 26, wherein the interferon alpha-2b is administered subcutaneously to the human.

Claim 30 (new): A method in accordance with claim 26, wherein the interferon alpha-2b is administered intravenously to the human for 14 days.

Claim 31 (new): A method in accordance with claim 26, wherein acetaminophen is given to the human 30 minutes before the interferon alpha-2b.

Claim 32 (new): A method of treating a human suffering from encephalitis caused by a West Nile virus infection comprising administering intravenously to the human an effective amount of interferon alpha-2b.

Claim 33 (new): A method in accordance with claim 32, wherein the interferon alpha-2b is administered in an amount from about 1.5 million units to about 10 million units/day.

Claim 34 (new): A method in accordance with claim 32, wherein the interferon alpha-2b is administered in an amount of 3 million units as an initial dose intravenously, then 3 million units subcutaneously every 12 to 24 hours.

Claim 35 (new): A method in accordance with claim 32, wherein the interferon alpha-2b is administered subcutaneously to the human.

Claim 36 (new): A method in accordance with claim 32, wherein the interferon alpha-2b is administered intravenously to the human for 14 days.

Claim 37 (new): A method in accordance with claim 32, wherein acetaminophen is given to the human 30 minutes before the interferon alpha-2b.

Claim 38 (new): A method of treating a human suffering from meningitis caused by a West Nile virus infection comprising administering intravenously to the human an effective amount of interferon alpha-2b.

Claim 39 (new): A method in accordance with claim 38, wherein the interferon alpha-2b is administered in an amount of 3 million units as an initial dose intravenously, then 3 million units subcutaneously every 12 to 24 hours.